

Western Carolina Democrat

and French Broad Hustler

VOL XXII, NO

HENDERSONVILLE, N. C. THURSDAY, JUNE 17 1915

\$1.00 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRATS ASK FOR BUSINESS MANAGER FOR CITY

CONCERTED EFFORT AMONG PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS TO INDUCE COMMISSIONERS TO QUIT PEANUT POLITICS AND CONTINUE MANAGER'S OFFICE; SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED.

With the view to showing that there is a strong element of the democratic party favoring the business manager plan of government, for Hendersonville, which the democratic members of the new board of commissioners have decided to dispense with, the Democrat is giving a number of expressions from representative citizens. Time and space would not permit an extended list, but those herewith are sufficient in number and sufficiently representative to show that the plan is earnestly desired. The republican members of the board favor the plan, which has been tried in Hendersonville for two years.

Following are some of the written expressions from men who did not write or express themselves just to see their names in print but in the interest of the welfare of Hendersonville.

City Attorney Favors Plan.

Mr. E. W. Ewbank, city attorney, in an interview with a Democrat representative was asked: "Are you in favor of the business manager plan for Hendersonville?"

"Yes, I am. From what I have understood the plan has been a financial success. I believe that the present board of commissioners should continue the plan and I have expressed myself on every occasion when my opinion has been asked for," stated Mr. Ewbank.

Old Plan a Backward Step.

Editor, Democrat:
I am thoroughly convinced that the business manager plan for a town the size of Hendersonville is the best and most economical.

After two years' trial, granting that some mistakes have been made in the new plan, I believe the plan has been successful and to go back to the old plan would be a serious backward step, considering the fact that the present plan is no more expensive than the old one.

Yours truly,
T. L. DURHAM.

I Am for Press Patton for Business Manager.

Editor, Democrat:
I wish to insist, as a citizen, a taxpayer and a business man, that the Board of Aldermen elect Mr. P. F. Patton business manager of Hendersonville.

I have known Mr. Patton for years. I have watched him in his private and public life. No man in our community is so well qualified to fill the office as he for he has every attribute necessary to the making of a successful manager for the town.

I call upon the Board to disregard ring politics and to be patriotic citizens and elect for business manager a man like Mr. Patton who can run the town without fear or favor. No axe to grind, no politicians to reward—nothing but business principles for the business of Hendersonville. Be independent men, and do the thing we all believe to be best for the town.

JOHN L. ORR.

Former Commissioner Advocates Plan

Editor, Democrat:
Kindly allow me to say through your columns that I am heartily in favor of continuing the office of city manager. I feel that it is an absolute necessity.

A man who is a business man, having executive ability and not lacking in energy, can save the town money.

The argument that "dollar-a-day" men at the head of each department will save money won't hold water from any standpoint.

There must be a head who is responsible to the board.

W. A. KEITH.

Wants Manager and Recall Plan.

Editor, Democrat:
I am certainly in favor of the business manager plan. I am also in favor of getting a man who thoroughly understands his business and who would be subject to a recall on a month's notice, if it should be found necessary.

Yours truly,
J. L. EGERTON.

Mr. Hawkins Favors Plan.

Editor, Democrat:
I am heartily in favor of the present city manager plan and trust that the city aldermen will reconsider the matter at its next meeting.

I am also in favor of employing a man with the understanding that he must deliver the goods. The democratic members of the board could well afford to look above politics in this matter for the good of Hendersonville.

Yours truly,
A. H. HAWKINS.

Important Business Demands Manager

Editor, Democrat:
I personally favor the employment by the city council of a competent man as manager of the city's affairs under the direction of the board because I believe that a business of any importance cannot be managed to the best advantage otherwise.

FOSTER BENNETT.

Experiment Proves Wisdom of Plan.

Editor, Democrat:
Permit me to say that I heartily endorse the plan of business manager for Hendersonville. I gave my reasons for it in a public statement before the board of city commissioners at their meeting last Friday evening and will not undertake to restate them here. I feel that the two years' trial of the plan has proven the wisdom of it and that our "city" fathers will commit an unpardonable error if they abolish it.

J. E. SHIPMAN.

Mr. Kincaid Wants Manager

Editor, Democrat:
I want a business manager. I believe it for the good of the town. I believe the mayor and democratic members of the board made a serious mistake in not electing Mr. Patton. As a democrat and one who votes the democratic ticket as well as a business man I ask the board to reconsider its action of last Friday night and to elect Mr. Patton business manager of Hendersonville.

F. H. KINCAID.

Mr. King Wants Manager.

Editor, Democrat:
As a business man and one interested in the welfare of Hendersonville, I signed the petition asking the mayor and board of aldermen to elect Mr. P. F. Patton business manager.

I now, after more mature consideration call upon the board to reconsider its action as expressed last Friday night and elect Mr. Patton or some other equally capable man as manager for the good of the city of Hendersonville.

H. M. KING.

Abolishment Would Kill the Party.

Editor, Democrat:
To do away with the present system of a town manager would, in my opinion, certainly be going backward. There is no more difference between managing a town the size of Hendersonville than there is in running any commercial enterprise. To be successful either must be under the guidance of a competent head.

The one responsible for results should be efficient and have full authority and if he is efficient he will have only that kind of men working under him.

Without indulging in personalities or individuals, without criticizing or recommending past, present, or proposed officials, let me say if the Democratic party assumes the responsibility, of rescinding the "town manager" idea, the next city council will be republican.

A certain clique have demonstrated their ability to control affairs in the democratic primary, and they probably can do so in the future, but they will find that they cannot control the votes of the younger element, many of whom will make an effective demonstration on election day.

A. S. TRUEX.

Rev. Mr. Wilcox Classes Action of New City Administration as Mere Peanut Chicanery in Regard to Lack of Consideration Given Petition for City Manager—Wants an Independent League.

Editor, Democrat:
Alas for the rarity of other things besides Christian charity! Every man of sense realizes that another may disagree with him and still be right. But every man is disappointed when those whom he has believed in and voted for and helped put in places of trust and high position show the politicians' claws beneath the velvet of the citizen.

A number of citizens bearing a petition signed by many voters met last Friday the newly elected mayor and aldermen praying them to reconsider their former action and appoint a business manager for the town. These citizens presented arguments which at least should have been met by arguments, instead of which they were met by mere peanut-political chicanery.

It is not difficult to surmise, and I challenge them to deny it, that the three democratic aldermen and the mayor met in caucus before the Friday meeting, at which they were to meet, and consider the proposition for a city manager, and before hearing any arguments concocted the scheme by which they killed it. The scheme

(Continued on last Page.)

GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW STRAND THEATRE THURSDAY.

Mr. Lester Opens Modern Picture House in Blue Ridge Inn Building; Big Features Announced.

L. T. Lester, Jr., of Spartanburg, S. C., will open his theatre "The Strand" Thursday with a special program, the feature picture being a two-reel comedy special entitled "The Jilted Elopement," starring Charlie Chaplin, the highest salaried male star on the screen today. There will also be other very interesting pictures.

The extra added attraction will be "The Olympic Quartette, the boys with the latest songs, and a little bit of everything. Another picture at the Strand will be the Strand Augmented Orchestra, which will play every afternoon and night. The Olympic quartette was engaged as an opening attraction for Thursday, Friday and Saturday but the price of admission will be only 5 and 10c.

The Strand is equipped with the best material and has one of the largest exhaust fans in this section, which will constantly change the air in the house. The opera chairs will all be covered with linen covers which will be laundered every other day.

The operating room will be equipped with two of the latest and best Powers No. 6 A motion picture machines that project steady pictures on a specially prepared mirrored screen, free from flicker and eye strain.

The management says the Strand is here to stay and that the movie fans of the city may rest assured that the policy of this theatre will be to show the best of everything at all times, no matter what the cost will be.

The Strand's announcement is carried elsewhere in the Democrat.

WANT YOUR NAME IN THE NEW TELEPHONE BOOK?

A new Hendersonville telephone directory will be issued within the next week or two. Summer visitors or residents who desire telephone service should make application to the local manager at once to insure their being listed in the new directory.

REPUBLICANS SUGGEST A PATRONAGE PRIMARY

In view of the keen interest manifested in the city over the political situation with reference to the administration of the municipal affairs, the Democrat asked Mayor Brooks if he or the democratic members of the board had a statement to offer the public, to which he replied in the negative.

Republicans Make Statement.

The republican members of the board were also asked for a statement and they have furnished the following: "Hendersonville, N. C., June 15 1915.

"Believing from the demonstration and petition at the last meeting of the council, that the majority of the taxpayers are in favor of a town manager, we hereby agree as the republican members of the board to support the winner of the nomination for business manager, selected at a primary. And in case that other officers are to be selected, and that the dead lock may be broken we also agree to support the democratic candidates chosen by the primary to be held. From a strict political standpoint we have no politics to play, no republican nominations to make and elect, but wish to try and represent the taxpayer of the town to the best of our ability.

"R. C. CLARKE,
"B. JACKSON,
"K. G. MORRIS."

ORDERS 18,000 SHELLS.

Big Ammunition Contract Awarded to Midvale Steel Works. (Philadelphia Dispatch.)

Despite the reticence of officials of the Midvale Steel Works, it became known today that the plant had received a contract from the United States Government to make 18,000 14-inch shells.

The order, one of the largest awarded by the Government since the Spanish war, is the first of importance to be placed since the beginning of the European war, and caused much discussion today in army and navy circles.

The shells, it was pointed out, are mainly for use in the forts about New York harbor and the Panama canal. The government officials in placing such a big order have made provision for the Pennsylvania and other big battleships that will be used in commission during the coming year.

ABOUT 250 INSURANCE MEN ARE EXPECTED TO VISIT THE CITY.

Annual Session of the North Carolina Insurance Men to Convene in Hendersonville, June 24.

The North Carolina Underwriters association will convene in annual session in Hendersonville on June 24 for a two days' session.

Efforts are being made to give the visitors an enjoyable entertainment so as to make their stay in Hendersonville most pleasant. Between 200 and 300 delegates to this meeting are expected from all parts of the State.

The program for the convention has been arranged. E. W. Ewbank has been selected to deliver the address of welcome. The convention will be opened with prayer by Rev. R. N. Wilcox.

The insurance men are coming to Hendersonville on the invitation of the Greater Hendersonville club, which sent a delegate with a pressing invitation to the meeting a year ago.

Auto Service Wanted. F. A. Ewbank states that the local underwriters are seeking the support of the people in giving the visitors a pleasant automobile drive over the city on June 24 from 4 to 6 o'clock. Mr. Ewbank requests the Democrat to announce that the co-operation of automobile owners in helping to entertain the visitors will be highly appreciated and that if a number of them will donate the services of their cars for two hours such co-operation will result in providing entertainment that will be greatly enjoyed by the insurance men.

This is regarded as a splendid opportunity for a number of automobile owners to contribute their share in providing entertainment which will serve as a splendid advertisement for the city. Mr. Ewbank would be pleased to list those who will co-operate in the matter of entertainment, which is necessary in taking care of the convention.

The insurance men are planning to have a Pullman to run from Goldsboro to Hendersonville, leaving Goldsboro at 2 o'clock on June 23. It is hoped to fill the car with insurance men and tack a large banner on the side of the car.

The Program.

The program follows:
Thursday, June 24th, 1915.
11:00 A. M.
Invocation—Rev. R. N. Wilcox, Hendersonville, N. C.
Address of Welcome—E. W. Ewbank, Hendersonville, N. C.
Response—Robt. E. Follin, Winston-Salem, N. C.
Roll Call.
President's Address—W. B. Merrimon, Greensboro, N. C.
Reports of Secretary and Treasurer—W. E. Sharpe, Burlington, N. C.

Afternoon Session.
3:00 O'clock.
Address, The Company and the Agents—H. R. Bush, President Dixie Fire Insurance Co.
Five minute talks, "On value of Agents Qualification Law"—by W. J. Griswold, Durham; W. L. Mann, Albemarle; P. R. Moale, Asheville, Open discussion.

4:30—Auto ride over City of Hendersonville.
Evening Session.
9:00 O'clock.
Address: Recent Legislation Affecting Insurance Agents—Hon. Jas. R. Young, Insurance Commissioner.
Address—Jas. H. Southgate, Durham.
Friday, June 25th, 1915.
10:00 a. m.
Report of Committees.

Address: The Rating Bureau and its Relation to the Agents—Paul B. Hulshif, Raleigh, N. C.
Address: Merit Rating System Casualty Insurance—Walter Lambeth, Charlotte.
Five minute talks, Uniform Time for Payment of Premium to Apply to Entire State—Paul W. Schenck, Greensboro; W. C. Maupin, Salisbury.

Afternoon Session.
2:45 O'clock.
Miscellaneous Business.
Invitation for next meeting.
Election of Officers.
Adjournment.

K. OF P. ELECT OFFICERS.

The Knights of Pythias of Hendersonville last week elected the following officers:
A. H. Hawkins, G. C.
J. A. McIntosh, V. G.
Chas. Rozelle, Prelate.
V. E. Grant, M. of W.
J. W. McIntyre, M. at A.
R. P. Anders, I. G.
Dr. W. F. Nickels, O. G.

The rank of Knight will be conferred next Monday night. A full attendance is desired. All visitors are welcome. Meeting at 8:30 o'clock.

THE WISHING RING AT THE VISTA FRIDAY JUNE 11.

Vivian Martin will appear in The Wishing Ring at the Vista theatre Friday of this week in a five act romantic feature. This has the reputation of being a strong gripping feature romance which is highly pleasing to the theatergoers.

DIFFERENCE AMONG DEMOCRATS THREATEN BIG SPLIT IN PARTY

LACK OF CONSIDERATION GIVEN BUSINESS MANAGER ADVOCATES AND THE APPARENT SURRENDER OF OFFICERS TO McD. RAY THREATEN TO DISRUPT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

Hendersonville is the vortex of a great political turmoil.

The situation is probably without a precedent in the history of Hendersonville, which makes a specialty of political fights of various kinds.

The turmoil is not petty differences between two opposing political parties but a strife for the survival of the fittest precipitated by three elements in the democratic party against the solid front of the republicans with an alleged bank fight to goad on political differences.

There are several issues in the political war and a number of them are receiving considerable consideration.

History of the Differences.

The history of the bitter Ray and Shipman factions is familiar to Henderson county people. About three months ago a movement was put on foot for a "citizens" ticket for Hendersonville. A ticket was tentatively named but the "ring" democrats and a few republicans talked it to death. But a number of those behind the movement were not satisfied when the municipal election was held so split their tickets, some swapping around to the extent that three republican commissioners were elected.

The Board Deadlocks.

When the new board went into power on June 8 with three democratic commissioners and three republicans and a democratic mayor holding the balance of power, the question of dispensing pie arose and the democrats felt that under the rules of the game they were entitled to the spoils and the republicans admitted it but they wanted to have something to say as to the personnel of those who should be seated around the pie counter. With this in view the board proceeded to select the appointive officers with the result that they couldn't reach a decision since the republicans wouldn't give the democrats an opportunity to tie in order for the mayor to cast the deciding vote. They struggled but with the result that three democrats would vote for one man and two republicans for another and one republican for the third man, therefore the mayor couldn't cast a deciding vote as there was no tie.

The Business Manager Movement.

It was decided to abolish the city manager plan of government and democratic friends of Preston F. Patton circulated a petition asking that the manager's office be continued and that Mr. Patton have due consideration for the place before he left for Greenville, S. C., to accept the office of road supervisor for Greenville county. The board held a special meeting to consider the petition on Friday night and a number of addresses were heard with reference to the office, the contents of the speeches being given below. The republican commissioners wanted to consider the plan but the democrats employed tactics whereby they would not have to vote down the petition which it is said they had declared they would do. After the speech-making was over the democrats voted to defer further consideration of the petition until the regular meeting in July, the mayor untieing the vote, and killing the movement since it would require immediate action to demand Mr. Patton's consideration as he was to leave before July for his new position.

They Longed for the Recall.

The meeting was well attended, mostly by supporters of the manager plan movement. The action of the board "threw fat in the fire" of the democratic camp. They stepped outside the hall and many of them longed for a recall provision in the charter. They had nothing else to do but swear that they would never forget the deed and had given their last political support to the democratic officers some of whom went out and laughed at the clever tactics employed. Many of those attending the meeting favored the movement for a "citizens" ticket.

and were instrumental in putting three republican commissioners in office because of the way things had been going politically.

Opposing the "Ringsters."

There is a growing element against a portion of what they term the democratic "ring" officeholders. They have determined to change the personnel of some of those at the pie counter. The new element of the democratic party has no name but it makes the third serious faction, the others being known as the McD. Ray and what was once known as the M. L. Shipman elements or factions, the latter having been changed in name to some extent to the C. E. Brooks element.

Has Brooks Surrendered?

Now comes the rub. Mr. Brooks friends labored earnestly for his election, even swapping to give him a few republican votes and now he is about to go back on his supporters, according to the disappointed ones. There is a provision in the charter which leaves the appointment of the officers in question to the mayor provided an election cannot be made by the commissioners within thirty days. The slate is said to be the McD. Ray slate, since those said to be lined up for appointment are his staunchest friends. A definite statement from the democrats as to the slate cannot be had but in circles which, while themselves not officially responsible, are often good barometers of the sentiment in responsible quarters, the slate is said to include Otis Powers for chief of police; Joe A. Bryson for police; J. W. McCarron, the present chief, for promotion to the office of tax collector with increased salary and Ernest Thompson, present police, for promotion to the office of street superintendent with increased salary. A portion of this slate is objectionable to the republican commissioners and the new democratic element, which contends that the democratic commissioners have surrendered totally to the McD. Ray element, of which Mayor Brooks has been an arch enemy. The new element thinks that it should be recognized even though the Brooks element has to surrender altogether to the Ray forces. They have little hopes of redress but they declare that they will get even when election rolls around again.

Motives Are Questioned.

The "ringster" democrats, who are in power, question the motives of the new element of the party, accusing them of being the cat's paws of the First Bank & Trust company, and in sympathy with the republicans, and declare that the new element is not entitled to recognition for the reason that they split their tickets and helped to elect three republicans. The new element is advocating no officers in general but are bent against a portion of the "ring" and say that if it lies within their power they will cause a bigger split at the next election unless their wishes are granted in part.

The Bank Fight

There is said to have been a long struggle between the banks for the city and county funds and the new element is charged with being the tool of the First Bank & Trust company, which has a vice president and a director, both republicans, on the board of commissioners while the Citizens National bank has its two vice presidents on the board, one being the mayor and the other a republican commissioner.

The new faction of the party claims that some of the democratic members made certain definite promises and implications as to what would be done in the change of the personnel of the "ring" provided they were elected, but if the proposed slate is correct there will be disappointment. The Brooks and Ray elements have been about evenly divided heretofore, but with all appearances of a coalition with McD. Ray on the throne in fact but not in name with his old enemy, Mr. Brooks, in the mayor's chair, the new and disgruntled faction is in the minority so far as present operations go.

Caused But Failed.

Rumors are afloat to the effect that the democratic commissioners strove to get together on the manager plan of government but there were some differences, as a result of which it is understood that they decided they would make a sacrifice of such office and increase the salaries of some of the "ringsters" and place them in higher position. It is understood that two of the democratic commissioners the mayor stood for the business manager plan while the republicans are said to favor it strongly. Demo-

(Continued on Editorial Page.)